



News Release

For immediate release: April 15, 2013

(13-047)

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Washington Secretary of Health John Wiesman takes office

OLYMPIA — Washington's new Secretary of Health John Wiesman, DrPH, takes over leadership today of the state Department of Health. Wiesman is Washington's first new health secretary in nearly 15 years. Governor Jay Inslee announced his appointment last month.

Wiesman has had a long career in public health, with more than 23 years working in local health agencies in Washington and Connecticut. Most recently he's led Clark County Public Health in SW Washington, serving as director since 2004. He's held management positions with Public Health — Seattle & King County and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

"I'm thrilled to lead one of this country's preeminent state health departments," [said Secretary Wiesman](#). "The work of state and local public health agencies affects the lives of people in communities around our state every day. As the saying goes, health is wealth. It's an honor to be entrusted with the important work of helping people live longer, healthier lives."

As head of the state health department, Wiesman oversees nearly 1,600 staff working at the agency headquarters in Tumwater and locations around the state. The department has a wide variety of responsibilities, including providing vaccines for kids, tracking and monitoring diseases, licensing of hospitals and about 380,000 health care providers, regulating public drinking water systems, and operating the Public Health Laboratories near Seattle.

Wiesman takes over for former Secretary of Health Mary Selecky, who is retiring from state service after nearly 15 years leading the Department of Health. The agency recently became one of the first two state health departments in the nation to receive national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board.

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